



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

December 12, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Intermediate School District Superintendents, Local Education Agency Superintendents, and Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. 
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

SUBJECT: Comment Period on School Improvement Grant (SIG) Waivers; Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2012 SIG Award

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will submit its School Improvement Grant (SIG) Application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 New Awards Competition under Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This grant will be used to fund SIG Cohort III schools for a three year period.

As part of the application, Michigan is applying for three waivers of SIG requirements and one amendment. The MDE is requesting Local Education Agencies (LEAs) comment on these requests, as detailed below.

Waivers of SEA Requirements

Priority Schools List Usage

The MDE is requesting a waiver of the school eligibility requirements in Section I.A.1 of the SIG final requirements. Section I.A.1 requires state to use a tiered system for identifying eligible SIG applicant schools. The MDE is requesting a waiver to use the list of priority schools as defined in Michigan's approved ESEA Flexibility Request in place of the tiered system. These schools will be eligible to compete for SIG Cohort III, which will commence with the 2014-15 school year.

Period of Availability for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Funds

The MDE is also requesting a waiver of section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (EDGAR) to extend the period of availability of FY 2013 school improvement funds until September 30, 2017. SIG grantees receive funding for three years to implement an intervention model. This waiver will provide a guaranteed award

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for the three full years. Without this waiver, grantees would have to apply annually for each year of the three year grant period.

Period of Availability for FY 2012 Funds and Application Amendment

Michigan received a FY 2012 grant award to fund current grantees. Circumstances have changed wherein sufficient funding exists from prior year grants to meet this need. As a result, the MDE is amending the FY 2012 grant application so that funding may be combined with FY 2013 funds for SIG cohort III, which will commence with the 2014-15 school year. As a result, the MDE is requesting a waiver to extend the period of availability for the FY 2012 funds until September 30, 2017. Combining FY 2012 and 2013 funds will allow the MDE to fund a larger number of schools in SIG cohort III.

The waiver requests may be viewed online at
http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_44099---,00.html

Comments should be submitted to davidsonk1@michigan.gov **no later than December 19, 2013.**

Questions regarding this communication may be directed to Kristine Davidson at davidsonk1@michigan.gov or Bill Witt at wittb1@michigan.gov.

c: Michigan Education Alliance